(b) whether it is a fact that satellite mapping of Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh has shown rapid depletion;

(c) whether Government have initiated any measures to start afforestation of the Eastern Ghats, especially in East and West Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether Government received any complaints of rapid depletion of teak and rosewood plantation throw illicit felling in West Godavari District, A.P.; if so, the details;

(e) whether a special team is proposed to be deputed to stop illicit felling in the Godavari River Valley; and

(f) if not, what measures are proposed to be initiated to address the concern of environments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Forest Survey of India, Dehradun carries out assessment of the forest area based on visual interpretation of satellite imageries on wo years rotation cycle.

(b) No Sir. As per 1989 and 1991 assessment made by Forest Survey of India pertaining to the period 1983—87 and 1987—89 respectively the forest area in Andnra Pradesh has shown no change.

(c) A massive programme of afforestation including social and Farm Forestry under 20 Point Programme is under implementation in the State of Andhra Pradesh. During the Seventh Five Year Plan an area of 7,27,529.5 ha. was brought under afforestation in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) No complaint of rapid depletion of teak and rose wood plantation through illicit felling in West Godavari District of Andsra Pradesh has been received.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

2654. [*Transferred to 26th March, 1993*]

**Rampant felling of trees in Maharashtra**

2655. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the Times of India dated 25th February, 1993 captioned "rampant felling of trees in Maharashtra";

(b) if so, whether Government have sought details about the alleged destruction of forests;

(c) whether similar reports about massive destruction of forests have been received from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and in other parts of the country;

(d) if so, the number of and details of reports and the destruction caused in different regions during 1992-93 so far; and

(e) what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, sir.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Government of Maharashtra have ordered detailed enquiry by Commissioner Nagpur into tampering of land reports and illicit felling of trees.

(e) Government have directed that special vigilance measures should be under taken in the affected areas. Legal measures are also being under taken to counter the threat.